



File Code: 2230-3/2210

Date: May 14, 2009

Carol Gardiner  
HCR 65 Box 767  
McKinnon, WY 82938

Dear Carol,

This letter references the annual meeting held on March 16, 2009, with you, Raymond Terry, Dale Anderson, Richie Anderson, and Aaron Zobell concerning your grazing permit on the Lewis-Allen Allotment. This letter will serve as your 2009 Operating Instructions and will become part of your term grazing permit consistent with Part 1, Item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a) of your term grazing permit.

Please note that situations may develop during the grazing season which requires changes to these instructions. If you feel this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the Rangeland Management Specialist and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. Your 2009 operating instructions are as follows:

**Lewis-Allen Allotment**

| <b><u>Numbers</u></b> | <b><u>Unit</u></b>  | <b><u>Date</u></b> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 43 pair (cow/calf)    | North Unit          | May 28 – July 28   |
| 43 pair (cow/calf)    | South Unit          | July 29 – Sept. 30 |
| 40 pair (cow/calf)    | Swett Ranch Portion | May 28 – Sept. 30  |

Only livestock branded according to the Certificate of Brand Registrations provided by each permittee to the Forest Service will be allowed to graze on the allotment with the exception of Raymond Terry. Raymond Terry will be running approximately 9 pair on the allotment in accordance with authority described in the Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 2209.13, 12.22 under your term grazing permit. Raymond's livestock will be branded with the Lazy RT brand according to his State of Utah Certificate of Registration. Remember you are still limited to the numbers shown above and described in your term grazing permit and this includes the livestock Raymond will be running on the allotment. Confirmation of payment through the "lock box" process must be received before livestock can enter National Forest Service Lands.

**Lewis-Allen Allotment Direction (excluding Swett Ranch):**

You plan to unload 40 pair in the vicinity of Camper World on May 28<sup>th</sup> using portable facilities and then move them into the old Bear Canyon unit (currently part of the North unit), which is immediately adjacent to the Flaming Gorge Resort area. You are permitted to stay in this area until the 8<sup>th</sup> of June. Please make sure you do not salt in this area and utilization benchmarks are



not exceeded. You are again authorized to use a small amount of electric fence adjacent to Allen Creek in the northwest part of the old Bear Canyon unit to aid in following the grazing schedule in this AOI and to help ensure your cattle are properly distributed. When you are done using this electric fence please make sure it is immediately removed.

Your livestock will be moved to the South unit when utilization benchmarks have been met or by 28<sup>th</sup> of July, whichever comes first. Cattle will be removed from the allotment once utilization benchmarks are reached in the South unit or by the 30<sup>th</sup> of September, whichever comes first. Gathering of livestock in preparation for the trip home should occur near the Swett Ranch while actual loading of livestock will occur just east of the Swett Ranch.

Utilization benchmarks are presented below in table 1.0. Utilization will generally be monitored at key areas of the allotment. Key areas are those areas of the allotment most preferred by livestock and are typically grazed first and receive the most concentrated use. Cattle will be removed from each unit before utilization benchmarks are exceeded at key areas. Cattle will be removed from National Forest lands when utilization benchmarks have been met at key areas in the South unit or by the off date for the allotment, whichever comes first. It is the permittees' responsibility to ensure utilization benchmarks shown in table 1.0 are not exceeded. The proposed grazing schedule and utilization benchmarks are per the 2009 Lewis-Allen Allotment Management Plan. Every effort must be taken to completely remove cattle off the National Forest by the scheduled off date. For example, if it requires three days of riding to gather your cattle, then you should start riding three days prior to your scheduled off date.

Table 1.0 Utilization and Residual Stubble Height Benchmarks for the Lewis-Allen Allotment

| Utilization Benchmarks     | North Unit | South Unit |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|
| Utilization-by key species | <50%       | <50%       |
| Residual Stubble Height    | >4 inches  | >4 inches  |

Highway safety remains a major concern for this allotment. The following strategies have been implemented as a result of this concern:

- Cattle are to be kept in the North unit until after the July 24<sup>th</sup> weekend. This reduces the likelihood cattle will be found on or in the vicinity of Highway 44 before the July 24<sup>th</sup> weekend. Successful implementation of this strategy may require extra riding and herding on your part. Please let Aaron know if you feel utilization standards will be exceeded as we approach the off date for the North unit.
- Five signs with flagging and flashers will be placed along Utah State Highway 44 and U.S. Highway 191 to warn oncoming motorists of the possibility of cattle on or in the vicinity of Highway 44. Signs will be put in place approximately three days before cattle are to enter the South unit, will be maintained during the time cattle are in the unit, and will be promptly removed after cattle are no longer on the allotment. One sign will be placed next to the Utah State Highway 44 before entering the allotment when traveling southbound and a second sign will be placed next to US Highway 191 traveling northbound just after turning onto this highway from Utah State Highway 44. Two signs will be placed next to US Highway 191 with one sign located at the north end of the

allotment and the second located at the south end of the allotment. The fifth sign may be placed according to permittee preference. Permittees will need to work together in determining each other's responsibility for obtaining, setting up, maintaining, and removing signs.

Equal utilization of the range is the objective. This requires riding and salting be properly conducted throughout the entire grazing season. Rotate your salting areas during the grazing season and from year to year. Place your salt in good forage producing areas where the cattle do not go by preference. Do not place your salt next to water, roads, trails, or in open meadows. Cattle need to be kept in their appropriate units, properly distributed within those units, and moved from unit to unit as needed. It is especially important that cattle be kept in the unit they are supposed to be in and that an even distribution of your cattle be maintained while in a unit, since any area reaching proper utilization means it is time to move into the next unit or to come home. Each permittee is responsible for keeping cattle spread out and not over utilizing the range.

### **Direction for the Swett Ranch Portion (SRP) of the Lewis-Allen Allotment**

You plan to unload 40 pair in the vicinity of the Swett Ranch and to immediately move them into the pasture one where you will begin grazing the SRP of the Lewis-Allen Allotment using the management-intensive grazed schedule shown below in table 2.0.

Table 2.0 Grazing schedule for the Swett Ranch Portion of the Lewis-Allen Allotment and Utilization Benchmarks

| <b>Season of Use*</b> | <b>Grazing Season</b> |                           | <b>Utilization Benchmark</b> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Pasture 1             | June 1 - June 10      | September 1- September 10 | >4 inches                    |
| Pasture 3             | June 11 – June 20     | September 11-September 20 | >4 inches                    |
| Pasture 2**           | June 20 – July 10     | September 21-Sept. 30     | >4 inches                    |

\*From July 11<sup>th</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> all livestock will be removed from National Forest lands to allow for regrowth on irrigated pastures. \*\* As requested pasture two may be divided in half using an electric fence.

Grazing will occur on each pasture until a four to six inch stubble height is reached. Emphasis in pasture one will be placed on reducing the amount of wolfy plants present. If this results in insufficient regrowth or pasture one not being ready to be regrazed by the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, then pasture three will be grazed during this time period and pasture two will be grazed from the 11<sup>th</sup> of September to the 30<sup>th</sup> of September. Livestock will be moved to the next scheduled pasture to be grazed or removed from Ashley National Forest lands if it is the last pasture to be grazed when utilization benchmarks have been reached. All livestock will be removed from National Forest lands by the 30<sup>th</sup> of September. Grazing results from this season will be used to refine grazing management on the Swett Ranch pastures in subsequent grazing seasons with changes occurring if needed in the management of livestock, numbers of livestock and/or season of use. Other management direction given to help ensure successful grazing and the reality of a living historical ranch are as followings:

- **Irrigation:** Pastures are to be irrigated prior to and during the grazing season. Pastures will not be irrigated during the time livestock are grazing within any pasture. This may

require you to do heavy maintenance of several lateral ditches and headgates. Should you need to use heavy equipment (e.g. tractors/backhoes) to do this or if maintenance involves moving the lateral ditches/headgates from their original locations you will need to receive prior approval from Jeff Rust, Archeologist of the Ashley National Forest. You will need to work with Forest Service personnel and the Greendale Irrigation Canal company to ensure that only the proper amount of water is diverted from the Greendale Canal to the Swett Ranch portion of the allotment.

- Reconstruction and/or maintenance of the historical Swett Ranch fences must be completed as described in the AMP for the SRP of the Lewis-Allen Allotment by the dates specified in this document. Please work closely with our Rangeland Management Specialist, Forest Archeologist, and other Forest Service personnel as needed.
- Swett Ranch Historical Days: Two Swett Ranch Historical Days are to occur this grazing season as discussed in the annual permittee meeting and as described in the AMP for the SRP of the Lewis-Allen Allotment. The first Swett Ranch Historical day will occur on May 30<sup>th</sup> and will be a branding day with lunch provided afterwards. Please work with our Visitor Information Assistant/Volunteer Manager, Kay Potter finalizing the details for this activity. The activity for the second Swett Ranch Historical Day has not yet been determined. Again please work with Kay Potter in determining an appropriate activity. I expect the second Swett Ranch Historical Day will occur sometime during the end of the summer or early fall. Kay Potter can be reached at 435-781-5294. Please be aware, if the Swett Ranch Historical Days do not occur as described in the AMP for the SRP of the Lewis-Allen Allotment and this AOI, you will be in violation of your permit and grazing of the Swett Ranch pastures may not be allowed in the future.

**Other Information (Entire Allotment):**

- Gate just east of highway on the Flaming Gorge Resort/Cart Creek Fence (#001116): You are authorized to place a pole gate at the area where snowmobiles cross the fence as was discussed in the annual permittee meeting. Please work with the other permittee on the allotment in accomplishing this.
- Finding a place in close proximity to the Swett Ranch where you may obtain logs for reconstructing approximately 1,200 feet of log worm fence on the south side of Swett Ranch Pasture #2. Aaron is looking into the possibility of this.
- End of season range ride: Permittees stated they would like to conduct a range ride at the end of the grazing season. Please contact Aaron at the end of the season to conduct this ride.

Please remember maintenance of all your improvements must be done one week before cattle enter the allotment and maintenance needs to be completed to the standard listed in your permit. Completing your maintenance responsibilities one week before your on date will allow Aaron time to inspect your improvements and address any concerns before your cattle enter the allotment.

Please keep track of the dates, numbers, and any other facts that may be pertinent to your grazing on the allotment this year and let Aaron know as they occur. Note these items on the Grazing Use Record form attached below and return them to Aaron by the 31<sup>st</sup> of December.

We also need your help to control noxious weeds. By removing musk thistle seed heads before they flower and then cutting down the plant at its base, the spread of this plant can be controlled. We are especially concerned about Dyer's Woad and any other "new" weeds. Please let Aaron know of any new noxious weed infestations so we can keep them from becoming established.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Aaron Zobell at (435) 781-5279. Thanks for your help in managing the Lewis Allen Allotment. We are looking forward to a great year.

Sincerely,

ROWDY MUIR  
Acting District Ranger

Enclosures (1)  
2009 Grazing Use Record

**2009 GRAZING USE RECORD**  
**FLAMING GORGE RANGER DISTRICT**

This form should be completed in detail, signed, and returned immediately following the grazing season to this office. Use back of sheet if necessary.

PERMITTEE \_\_\_\_\_

ALLOTMENT \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

ACTUAL USE

| UNIT IN ORDER<br>GRAZED | TOTAL<br>LIVESTOCK<br>NUMBERS | DATE<br>ENTERED | DATE<br>LEFT | DATE <u>ALL</u><br>LIVESTOCK<br>REMOVED<br>FROM UNIT | NOTES |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--|-------|
|                         |                               |                 |              |  |       |
|                         |                               |                 |              |  |       |
|                         |                               |                 |              |  |       |
|                         |                               |                 |              |  |       |
|                         |                               |                 |              |  |       |

NOXIOUS WEEDS

| SPECIES | LOCATION | OTHER |
|---------|----------|-------|
|         |          |       |
|         |          |       |
|         |          |       |

OTHER

Improvements maintained and/or visited

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Improvements in need of repair

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NOTES

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SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE